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SERVICE

NEWS

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CONSERVATION
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May 23, 1941

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To men and women in every walk of life, the national defense program is a matter of urgent personal concern. For rich and poor, farmer, laborer, industrialist, banker, preacher, teacher, and all the others--defense is the most vital matter of the day.

The defense program is no longer a thing apart from our everyday lives. We're not on a basis of "business as usual," or of living or working "as usual," either. We're on a basis of all-out effort to defend America.

It will require the concerted energies of a united people to make that effort bear results--not merely physical energies but energy of purpose and a clear understanding of the social and economic implications of the situation.

Today, throughout the country, men and women search their minds and hearts for guidance. Some have found the answers they sought for; others remain puzzled and confused. They feel they lack the facts on which to base an intelligent opinion. They are asking for information. This is as it should be, for in this Democracy, people must make their own decisions in times of national crisis as well as times of peace.

In the present crisis, U. S. Department of Agriculture decisions have been made. The Congress of the United States, for example, has adopted a policy of aiding Britain as a first line of defense and most people agree with that course. But they want to know how much aid we're really giving. What is the food situation in England? they ask. Are the food and arms we send reaching England? What percentage of these supplies is being sunk?

There are many other questions, too, on which folks want to be informed. To what extent is the United States dependent on other countries for strategic war materials and consumer materials? Is our Pan-American policy proving effective in off-setting German economic and political penetration in the South and Central Americas? Is Greenland really too fog-ridden to be a practical base for aerial operations?

And so on.

Millions of Americans, including men and women of the Soil Conservation Service, want facts--authentic information--to clear their thinking. Sometimes the exact statistics aren't available; sometimes, this thing or that cannot be answered positively one way or another. But we are taking steps to obtain such factual information as is available on the international situation so that all SCS staff members, as citizens and as employees of the Government, may have a sound basis for opinions and decisions.

We have been carrying defense notes in Service News for some time, as you know.

(Continued on page 3)

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LANDS TRANSFERRED TO ARMY FOR DEFENSE

In connection with SCS activities for national defense, the Land Management Division has made available to the Army five tracts of land totalling 25,000 acres. Transfers of two other tracts--one to the War Department and the other to a State college for CAA pilot training--are now pending.

Latest transfer included 640 acres within the Northwest Louisiana Project, Webster and Claiborne Counties, Louisiana, which on April 8 Secretary Wickard authorized the War Department to use as a bombing range for so long as needed in the defense program. This land will be turned back to SCS when the emergency is over.

Four other tracts have been transferred permanently to the War Department. These transfers include 6,372 acres in Clinton County, New York; 7,451 acres in Jefferson County, New York; 9,448 acres in Monroe County, Wisconsin; and 1,000 acres in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma land will be used as a rifle range while the other three areas will serve as extensions to present military camps.

Negotiations are now in process for the transfer of 9,000 acres in Lanier and Lowndes Counties, Georgia, which the Army may use as an air base. Consideration is also being given to the transfer or lease of approximately 300 acres within the Crab Orchard Project in Williamson and Jackson Counties, Illinois, to the Southern Illinois State Normal University for an airport where students may train under direction of the CAA.

The Land Management Division has also arranged for the use of land within the Pea River Project in Dale and Coffee Counties, Alabama, by the National Guard of that State.

MYER APPOINTED TO DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE

Dillon Myer has been selected by the Secretary to represent SCS as a member of a committee to formulate unifying policies and objectives for all USDA activities in the West and to recommend program changes necessary to the achievement of those objectives. Other members of the Department committee are H. R. Tolley, M. S. Eisenhower, N. E. Dodd, C. E. Rachford, G. M. Brennan, R. W. Hudgens, and R. I. Kimmel.

In connection with this same work, SCS is making available to the Department for a 90-day period the services of Regional Conservator Hugh G. Calkins. Mr. Calkins and an inter-agency group to be announced later will consider the general problems of the southwestern inter-mountain region and will recommend unifying policies and objectives for that area. Elmer A. Starch will head a similar group for the Northern Great Plains and Edwin R. Henson will do the same for the Southern Great Plains.

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Radio stations WJR, Detroit; WBBM, Chicago; and KSTP, St. Paul, have within recent weeks started new programs aimed primarily at service to farmers and their families. Along with other agencies of the USDA, the SCS will contribute to these programs through the regional offices at Dayton, Milwaukee, and Lincoln.

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The farm population of the USA has remained almost stationary during the past 10 years, according to the Census Bureau. There were 30,475,206 persons who lived on farms when the count was taken a year ago. This represents an increase of only 29,856, or 0.1 percent, since 1930, while the population as a whole increased 8,894,229, or 7.2 percent. Thus the farm population, in relation to the total, dropped 1.7 points to 23.1 percent.

TEXAS EDITOR WRITES OF CONSERVATION NEED

The Amarillo Times warns its readers that although the rains have come to the Dust Bowl, the Panhandle farmers need conservation practices on their land today just as much as they did five years ago. On May 5 the *Times* led off its editorial page with the subject, "Plains Still Need Conservation." Here is what the editor had to say:

"The rains have come!

"The Panhandle now appears to have completed one of the 10-year dry cycles charted by the federal weather experts, and to have started the ensuing 10-year moisture period.

"Already the word has been spreading that the dust bowl is no more.

"But not even the advent of plentiful moisture should persuade Panhandle citizens to abandon the soil conservation program which probably prevented the formation of a great American desert half a dozen years ago.

"The soil today is no more stable than it was then. True, it is wet; but much of the Plains soil will blow when wet; and that which won't, may be carried away by the very rains that bring the welcome moisture.

"Even more than during the dust-bowl days, the Panhandle farmer needs to observe the basic conservation practices of contour plowing, strip cropping, deep- and basin-listing, cover cropping, and contour ridge construction.

"The danger is still there, as it always will be. This time, however, the Panhandle has a weapon--the Soil Conservation Service and the new agricultural science which it teaches--with which to fight the ravages of erosion, whether by wind or by water."

SCS EMPLOYEE GRANTED PATENT ON FILM ADAPTER

Melvin S. Kennedy, associate cartographic engineer in Washington, has been granted a patent for an invention entitled "Film Adapter."

The invention relates to a device for holding film, either in roll or cut form, in a projector camera. When the film used is in roll form, the device furnishes means for feeding film through the camera. This device is attached as a unit to the camera and can be operated from the exterior of the camera without interfering with the fixed position of the camera. The inventor also claims that his device does not mar or in any way damage the film, especially by scraping.

Mr. Kennedy has dedicated the invention to the free use of the public which allows the Government and others to manufacture the device without payment of royalties to the inventor. Those interested in securing copies of the patent should write to A. V. Schrider, Head of the Claims, Patents and Examination Section, Washington, D. C., or additional information may be requested from the inventor who is located at the Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland.

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WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

(Continued from page 1)

From now on, we hope to carry a much larger amount of information pertaining to the defense effort and the war situation. It will help us greatly to know the questions you want answered, and we'll answer them if we can. The same goes for questions you hear other people asking. Often they're questions arising from rumor and false reports. Maybe we can clear them up. So don't hesitate to ask. If we can't deliver, we'll just say so.

More later on defense.

CHIEF IS IMPRESSED BY CANADIAN FRIENDLINESS

From F. E. Charles, information specialist at Dayton who accompanied the Chief on his trip to London, Ontario, comes the following account of the first annual meeting of the Canadian Conservation Association.

"Dr. Bennett was most impressed with the warm friendliness displayed by our Canadian hosts. 'Their friendliness and cordiality was unstinted,' he remarked. 'It was the sort of relationship we need between the various countries of the Americas. I think we need more exchanges of ideas, more meetings with the peoples of other American nations.'

"Speaking formally of conservation against a background of war, the Chief said that our efforts at soil and water conservation had produced two important contributions which will prove to be of inestimable value now that the world is locked in war. 'The first is the strengthening of democratic government and of the faith of our people in that form of government through success in meeting this test of our ability to govern ourselves.'

"The second contribution,' he said, 'is that our labors are making America more than ever worth defending.'

"Those two points impressed the Canadians. They were amazed, too, at the extent of soil conservation work launched in the States. They liked the Chief's illustrated address, showing the vastness of soil damage in the States. Many were surprised at the extent of destruction. They liked, as one delegate expressed it, 'the obvious good humor of the speaker in describing erosion losses.'

"Canadians know that they, too, have problems of waste. Their soil surveyors appreciate that fact. They know that their soil losses will grow worse unless

they learn from the colossal lethargy that has cost the United States dearly.

"Dr. Bennett commented upon the splendid cooperative spirit between the different groups in the Canadian Conservation Association and described the technical papers presented as a 'fine collection which should do much to keep conservation work in Canada in balance '

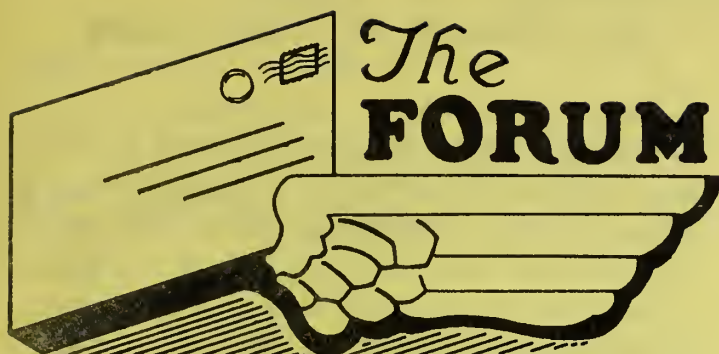
"SCS technicians who have helped develop 'complete farm planning' will appreciate the significance of the fact that among convention speakers there were foresters, soils specialists, agronomists, economists, biologists, sociologists, professional educators, engineers, geographers, entomologists, zoologists, representatives of commercial interests, and still others with whom conservation is an avocation.

"The basic problems of conservation in Canada seem about the same as in the United States. Canada lags behind the U. S. in launching a broad offensive against soil destruction; they are ahead of us in not having yet destroyed so much land. Listening to Dr. Bennett's description of soil conservation districts, a Canadian expressed surprise at the far-flung attack on soil erosion in the U. S. 'Well,' the SCS Chief replied, 'we are so far ahead of you in wasting our resources that we have got to get busy even to hold our own.'

"The foregoing are a few sidelights of professional interest to SCS personnel. The Canadians' activities in conservation were interesting and encouraging; most heart-warming was the spirit of international friendliness, the evidence of mutuality of interests with people of the United States."

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"A Green Dress for Dixie"--an article on cover crops--by Wellington Brink has been published in the May issue of the *Junior Red Cross Journal*.



STEP CHILDREN

DEAR EDITOR: One can understand why step-children often are not taken into a family with the "step" relationship entirely forgotten. Just why the Land Utilization program should be treated that way by some employees of the Service staff is difficult to understand. It is now two and one-half years since LU came into the Service and yet so often one observes such oversights of the program as occur in the maps on the back covers of Farmers' Bulletins 1864 and 1868.

In the former, if LU project areas had been included--and surely they have been a strong influence "Toward Soil Security" as recognized in the text--it would show that the programs of the Service are of considerably wider application than would appear from the map that was used.

In the latter, I hope that not all of the efforts made in the LU projects to protect and propagate wildlife were of so little value as to make it seem unwise to show such areas on a map designed to reflect the wildlife conservation activities of the Service.

Many employees of the Service have long since recognized that the LU program has a definite function it can perform in the activities of the Service. Isn't it about time they all do?

P.K.H.

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Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming--the first national forest to be established in the USA--is 50 years old this year.

SAFETY KNOWLEDGE BRINGS JOE SUCCESS

W. Albert Hogle, camp superintendent at SCS-36, Findlay, Ohio, believes he has the prime success story and safety story all rolled up in one. And we are inclined to believe he is right. Here is what the superintendent has to tell:

"Edward Barger, a project assistant CCC enrollee with a rating of leader was recently married and felt that it was necessary for him to increase his income. Yesterday he presented himself to the employment officer of the Ohio Steel & Foundry Company, Lima, Ohio, and asked for a job. He did not receive much encouragement until the employment officer began to discuss safety regulations enforced in the plant, and to his amazement he found that Barger was very much safety minded. He then took Barger to the plant Safety Engineer and after considerable questioning they became aware of the fact that Barger knew safety regulations and 'was more safety minded than some of their foremen', this being the statement of the Safety Engineer himself.

"Enrollee Barger was hired on the spot at 62¢ per hour with a promise of a raise within two weeks if he made good, and other raises to follow. The employment officer also stated that he could use at least five more like Barger, preferably married boys.

"The above is the story brought back to me by Enrollee Barger this morning when he reported to the Company Commander and checked in his clothing. He was in high spirits and personally thanked me for the safety training he had received during the two and a half years he was in this camp."

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The Grantsville District in Region 8 is planning to purchase 1,300 acres of blocked private lands in the Dust Bowl area of the district.

SALUDA CAMP GETS REGIONAL SAFETY TROPHY

CCC Camp SCS-19, Saluda, S. C., has been awarded the regional safety trophy for having the best safety record of the 64 CCC camps in Region 2, from the time safety awards were started a year ago until March 31, 1941. The trophy was presented by Alva B. Gross, chief, Regional CCC Operations, during ceremonies at the camp on May 3.

In addition to the regional trophy, state safety awards for the sixteenth camp period, October 1, 1940, to March 31, 1941, have been presented to the following six camps: SCS-17, St. Stephens Church, Va.; SCS-5, Yanceyville, N. C.; SCS-19, Saluda, S. C.; SCS-19, Perry, Ga.; SCS-16, Monroeville, Ala.; SCS-21, Philadelphia, Miss.

Although 44 camps had no lost-time accidents during the six months' period, the award in each state was made to the camp having no lost-time accident which had the largest number of man-hours worked.

Twenty-four of the 64 camps in Region 2 have completed an entire year without a lost time accident and three camps have finished two successive accident-free years. Each of these 24 camps has been awarded a certificate signed by Chief Bennett, in recognition of its achievement.

Two year certificates were awarded to Camps SCS-18, Gordonsville, Va.; SCS-24, Forest City, N. C.; and SCS-18, Eutaw, Ala.

Two outstanding safety records in truck operations have also been reported to Mr. Gross.

A. A. Legett, superintendent of Camp SCS-20, Mendenhall, Miss., reports that from September 15, 1935, to March 15, 1941, enrollees and Service personnel have driven

(Continued in next column)

INSURANCE CO. HIRES AGRONOMIST TO PLAN FARMS

Some folks think soil erosion is so serious a problem they do not want to wait until districts can be formed to make plans for their farming needs. Region 5 is telling how the Union Central Life Insurance Company in Minnesota took matters in hand to solve the situation on two of their farms located outside of soil conservation districts.

E. T. Schneider, manager of the insurance company, employed Paul Strom--a former SCS agronomist who is now in private industry in Rochester--to make plans on two company-owned farms. Mr. Schneider said he took this means of starting the conservation plan rather than wait until the farms were within the district boundaries because this plan would give the company a start ahead of the program and it would be ready for cooperation with the supervisors at a later date.

The company has about 25 properties in the vicinity of districts that are now organized. One of its rules is for the lessee to plan a conservation program for his farm.

So far as we know, this is one of the first direct examples of an insurance agency hiring a technician to make conservation plans on its farms. As Mr. Schneider expressed it, since Mr. Strom was formerly with SCS, he would develop the type of program that the company received on other farms under agreement with the Service.

en 550,894 miles without even a minor accident.

Superintendent Joseph R. Brown of Camp SCS-13, Cartersville, Ga., reports a total of 464,379 miles with only one accident, in which a foreman sustained a broken collarbone and one enrollee received minor scratches.

ABOUT DEFENSE

WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW IS....

When I read about increases in defense production, it's encouraging. What I'd like to know is, are we really moving fast enough?

Answer: You're right to be encouraged. But we aren't moving fast enough. Doubling production is not enough. Quadrupling is not enough in most cases.

There are so many stories and rumors, it's hard to know what to believe. The man who probably has the most accurate information about needs and production is John D. Biggers, Director of Production of OPM. On April 30 he told the U. S. Chamber of Commerce: "Since last May ... the monthly production of airplanes has been trebled. The monthly output of tanks increased 600 percent; powder, 1000 percent; small arms ammunition, 1200 percent; Car- and rifles, 360 percent. Machine guns--the .30 caliber, trebled; the .50 caliber, quadrupled, and so on down the list...

"But . . before 1941 ends, the monthly production of powder must and will again be trebled. Small arms ammunition must be trebled. Rifle production must be doubled. Machine gun production increased fivefold. Tank production quadrupled. The monthly output of American military planes--intricate and difficult as they are to build--must and will be doubled ... I want to make it just as clear as I possibly can that we cannot for one moment be satisfied. One of the most dangerous things that could possibly happen to this country today would be for our people in any walk of life to get the impression that the defense program is rolling along--that it will take care of itself. Only by united effort can this task be accomplished."

What about farm prices? Didn't the Government peg the price of pork, poultry, and dairy products on April 3?

Answer: Farm prices have not been fixed. Regarding the April 3 statement, Secretary Wickard said recently

"Apparently there has been some misunderstanding * * * The report got out that the Department planned to peg prices. Naturally, farmers did not feel any too good about that. Their interpretation of peg is the same as my interpretation. A pegged price doesn't go up or down. It stays at one place.

"We didn't peg prices. The prices we have in mind are floors. They are not ceilings. Through commodity loans we put a floor under the prices of wheat, cotton, corn, and tobacco. Through purchases in the open market, we plan to do the same thing for hogs, dairy products, and chickens and eggs."

On April 3, the Department announced that it would support, for the next two years, on the basis of Chicago prices, an average of \$9 for hogs; 31 cents a pound for butter; 15 cents a pound for chickens; and 22 cents a dozen for eggs. These are the foods most urgently needed by England. A drive to increase our production is now going on

Leon Henderson, Price and Civilian Supply Administrator, Office of Emergency Management, reemphasized the Secretary's statement regarding the announcement of April 3. "This is not a price-fixing measure," he said. "The guaranteed prices are minimum prices and no maximum prices have been agreed upon."

Mr. Henderson pointed out that by this action the Government was doing for farmers what it was doing for industry--in asking them to increase production of these commodities, it was guaranteeing that the increase would not bring about a fall in prices "

PRINTERS' INK

"Flotation Erosion by Ice" by C. W. Rose, assistant soil conservationist at Binghamton, N. Y., in the April *Journal of Geomorphology*.

"The Effect of Aspect of Slope on Climatic Factors" by J. M. Aikman, agent at Ames, Iowa, in the January *Iowa State College Journal of Science*.

"Possible Effects of Improved Moisture Conservation Practices upon the Productivity and Value of Land," by F. L. Duley, senior soil conservationist at the Lincoln regional office, in the April *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers*.

"Watering Mexico's Deserts" by Edward C. Higbee, junior soil conservationist at West Salem, Wis., in the May *Agriculture in the Americas*.

Region 8 information folks furnished pictures and material for a picture essay, "Water in the Magic Land" in the April *Arizona Highways*.

A letter to the editor written by Donald H. Boone, junior forester at Gallupville, N. Y., is printed in the May *Journal of Forestry*. Mr. Boone seeks to clarify SCS forester-farmer relations which he feels were confused by Professor J. A. Cope in an article on "Farm Woodland Owner's Cooperatives" in the February issue of the same magazine.

The Farmer's Weekly--a journal devoted to the interests of South African Agriculture--publishes in the April 2 issue pictures and detailed extracts from *Farmers' Bulletin* No. 1848, "Soil Defense in the Pacific Southwest" by Glenn K. Rule and Ralph W. Netterstrom. The Bulletin discusses conservation practices in California and Nevada where conditions are very similar to those experienced in South Africa.

FIELD MEMORANDA

802-C Long Distance Telephone Calls-Travel Status. (No longer necessary to use Form AD-102 but travelers should list calls on vouchers.)

966-B Personnel Information Sheet, Form 3464a, Supplementary Reports. (Civil Service Commission has not devised the supplementary forms to keep personnel records up to date but Commission will be glad to accept voluntary statements submitted by employees.)

1004 "Convict Labor Clause"-insertion in Cooperative Agreements with State Agencies. (Clause is not required to be included in agreement with State which proposes to use such labor.)

203-A Clearance of Forms Originated by Field Memoranda. (Invites attention to regulation that drafts of material which will require use of new forms must be submitted for approval to Forms Committee.)

556-B Operation of Regional Supply Center.

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"This Curious World"--picture feature in the Scripps-Howard papers about interesting facts--used a plug for soil conservation on May 5 when it cartooned a farmer hanging onto a tree to save himself from wind and rain and stated "Wind and water erosion in the U. S. alone removes about 3,000,000,000 tons of soil from use annually."

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Fourteen percent of all SCS employees in Region 5 are former CCC enrollees. Better still, 24.3 percent of SCS personnel in CCC camps of the region were once \$30-a-month men. These figures compare very favorably with the national percentages of about 9 and 19 percent respectively.